



Texas Department of Insurance
Division of Workers' Compensation
Medical Fee Dispute Resolution, MS-48
7551 Metro Center Drive, Suite 100 • Austin, Texas 78744-1609

MEDICAL FEE DISPUTE RESOLUTION FINDINGS AND DECISION

PART I: GENERAL INFORMATION

Requestor Name and Address: MEMORIAL HERMANN HOSPITAL SYSTEM 3200 SOUTHWEST FRWY, SUITE 2200 HOUSTON TX 77027	MFDR Tracking #: M4-06-7394-01 DWC Claim #: Injured Employee:
Respondent Name and Carrier's Austin Representative Box #: SENTRY SELECT INSURANCE CO BOX # 19	Date of Injury: Employer Name: Insurance Carrier #:

PART II: REQUESTOR'S POSITION SUMMARY

Requestor's Position Summary: "Since trauma patients require unusually extensive services, reimbursement should be no less than 75% of total audited charges as recognized as a fair and reasonable rate under the stop loss method. Since there is no prescribed rate for reimbursement of trauma cases, the stop loss 75% should be used as a minimum basis for reimbursement of trauma cases."

Amount in Dispute: \$44,934.69

PART III: RESPONDENT'S POSITION SUMMARY

Respondent's Position Summary: "Having already reimbursed Requestor \$6702.11, the Carrier has reimbursed Requestor an amount greater than or equal to the amount that would be calculated in accordance with the above-described TWCC Rules and SOAH decisions."

Response Submitted by: James R. Sheffield, III, FOL, for Sentry Insurance, 504 Lavaca St. # 1000, Austin, TX 78707

PART IV: SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Date(s) of Service	Denial Code(s)	Disputed Service	Amount in Dispute	Amount Due
8/10/2005 through 8/12/2005	F, N, R, Z695, Z585, X023, X137, Z560, W1, 42	Inpatient Surgery Admission	\$44,934.69	\$0.00
Total Due:				\$0.00

PART V: REVIEW OF SUMMARY, METHODOLOGY AND EXPLANATION

Texas Labor Code §413.011(a-d), titled *Reimbursement Policies and Guidelines*, and Division rule at 28 Texas Administrative Code §134.1, titled *Use of the Fee Guidelines*, effective May 16, 2002 set out the reimbursement guidelines.

This request for medical fee dispute resolution was received by the Division on August 3, 2006. Pursuant to Division rule at 28 TAC §133.307(g)(3), effective January 1, 2003, 27 TexReg 12282, applicable to disputes filed on or after January 1, 2003, the Division notified the requestor on June 15, 2005 to send additional documentation relevant to the fee dispute as set forth in the rule.

- For the services involved in this dispute, the respondent reduced or denied payment with reason code(s):
 - F-Fee guideline MAR reduction.
 - N-Not documented.
 - R-Extent of injury.
 - Z695-The charges for this hospitalization have been reduced based on the fee schedule allowance.
 - Z585-The charge for this procedure exceeds fair and reasonable.
 - X023-Payment for this charge is not recommended without documentation of cost.
 - X137-CPT code is required when billing CT Scan or MRI revenue code(s) on an inpatient bill.

- Z560-The charge for this procedure exceeds the fee schedule or usual and customary allowance.
 - W1-Workers Compensation state fee schedule adjustment.
 - 42-Charges exceed our fee schedule or maximum allowable amount.
2. The respondent raised the issue of “R-extent of injury” on the initial EOB. The Division finds that on the reconsideration EOBs, the respondent did not maintain this denial reason upon reconsideration. A review of Division records does not support an extent of injury issue exists; therefore, the disputed services will be reviewed in accordance with applicable Division rules and fee guidelines.
 3. This dispute relates to inpatient surgical services provided in a hospital setting with reimbursement subject to the provisions of Division rule at 28 TAC §134.401(c)(5)(A), effective August 1, 1997, 22 TexReg 6264, which requires that when “Trauma (ICD-9 codes 800.0-959.50)” diagnosis codes are listed as the primary diagnosis, reimbursement for the entire admission shall be at a fair and reasonable rate. Review of box 67 on the hospital bill finds that the principle diagnosis code is listed as 813.01. The Division therefore determines that this inpatient admission shall be reimbursed at a fair and reasonable rate pursuant to Division rule at 28 Texas Administrative Code §134.1 and Texas Labor Code §413.011(d).
 4. The requestor asks for reimbursement under the stop loss provision of the Division’s *Acute Care Inpatient Hospital Fee Guideline* found in Division rule at 28 TAC §134.401(c)(6). The requestor asserts in the position statement that “Since trauma patients require unusually extensive services, reimbursement should be no less than 75% of total audited charges as recognized as a fair and reasonable rate under the stop loss method. Since there is no prescribed rate for reimbursement of trauma cases, the stop loss 75% should be used as a minimum basis for reimbursement of trauma cases.” Division rule at 28 TAC §134.401(c)(6), effective August 1, 1997, 22 TexReg 6264, states, in part, that “The diagnosis codes specified in paragraph (5) of this subsection are exempt from the stop-loss methodology and the entire admission shall be reimbursed at a fair and reasonable rate.” As stated above, the Division has found that the primary diagnosis is a code specified in Division rule at 28 TAC §134.401(c)(5); therefore, the disputed services are exempt from the stop-loss methodology and the entire admission shall be reimbursed at a fair and reasonable rate pursuant to Division rule at 28 TAC §134.1.
 5. Division rule at 28 TAC §134.1, effective May 16, 2002, 27 TexReg 4047, requires that “Reimbursement for services not identified in an established fee guideline shall be reimbursed at fair and reasonable rates as described in the Texas Workers’ Compensation Act, §413.011 until such period that specific fee guidelines are established by the commission.”
 6. Texas Labor Code §413.011(d) requires that fee guidelines must be fair and reasonable and designed to ensure the quality of medical care and to achieve effective medical cost control. The guidelines may not provide for payment of a fee in excess of the fee charged for similar treatment of an injured individual of an equivalent standard of living and paid by that individual or by someone acting on that individual’s behalf. It further requires that the Division consider the increased security of payment afforded by the Act in establishing the fee guidelines.
 7. Division rule at 28 TAC §133.307(g)(3)(C)(iv), effective January 1, 2003, 27 TexReg 12282, applicable to disputes filed on or after January 1, 2003, requires the requestor to send additional documentation relevant to the fee dispute including a statement of the disputed issue(s) that shall include “how the submitted documentation supports the requestor position for each disputed fee issue.” Review of the submitted documentation finds that the requestor did not state how the submitted documentation supports the requestor’s position for each disputed fee issue. The Division concludes that the requestor has not met the requirements of Division rule at 28 TAC §133.307(g)(3)(C)(iv).
 8. Division rule at 28 TAC §133.307(g)(3)(D), effective January 1, 2003, 27 TexReg 12282, applicable to disputes filed on or after January 1, 2003, requires the requestor to provide “documentation that discusses, demonstrates, and justifies that the payment amount being sought is a fair and reasonable rate of reimbursement.” Review of the submitted documentation finds that:
 - The requestor states in the position summary that “Since trauma patients require unusually extensive services, reimbursement should be no less than 75% of total audited charges as recognized as a fair and reasonable rate under the stop loss method. Since there is no prescribed rate for reimbursement of trauma cases, the stop loss 75% should be used as a minimum basis for reimbursement of trauma cases.”.
 - The requestor does not discuss or explain how payment of \$44,934.69 would result in a fair and reasonable reimbursement.
 - The requestor seeks reimbursement for this admission based upon the stop-loss reimbursement methodology which is not applicable per Division rule at 28 TAC §134.401(c)(6).
 - The requestor did not submit documentation to support that the payment amount being sought is a fair and reasonable rate of reimbursement.
 - The Division has previously found that a reimbursement methodology based upon payment of a hospital’s billed charges, or a percentage of billed charges, does not produce an acceptable payment amount. This methodology was considered and rejected by the Division in the *Acute Care Inpatient Hospital Fee Guideline* adoption preamble which states at 22 Texas Register 6276 (July 4, 1997) that:

“A discount from billed charges was another method of reimbursement which was considered. Again, this method

was found unacceptable because it leaves the ultimate reimbursement in the control of the hospital, thus defeating the statutory objective of effective cost control and the statutory standard not to pay more than for similar treatment of an injured individual of an equivalent standard of living. It also provides no incentive to contain medical costs, would be administratively burdensome for the Commission and system participants, and would require additional Commission resources.”

- The requestor does not discuss or explain how payment of the requested amount would satisfy the requirements of Division rule at 28 TAC §134.1.
- The requestor did not discuss or support that the proposed methodology would ensure that similar procedures provided in similar circumstances receive similar reimbursement.

The request for additional reimbursement is not supported. Thorough review of the documentation submitted by the requestor finds that the requestor has not demonstrated or justified that payment of the amount sought would be a fair and reasonable rate of reimbursement for the services in dispute. Additional payment cannot be recommended.

9. The Division would like to emphasize that individual medical fee dispute outcomes rely upon the evidence presented by the requestor and respondent during dispute resolution, and the thorough review and consideration of that evidence. After thorough review and consideration of all the evidence presented by the parties to this dispute, it is determined that the submitted documentation does not support the reimbursement amount sought by the requestor. The Division concludes that this dispute was not filed in the form and manner prescribed under Division rules at 28 Texas Administrative Code §133.307(g)(3)(C)(iv) and §133.307(g)(3)(D). The Division further concludes that the requestor failed to support its position that additional reimbursement is due. As a result, the amount ordered is \$0.00.

PART VI: GENERAL PAYMENT POLICIES/REFERENCES

Texas Labor Code §413.011(a-d), §413.031 and §413.0311
28 Texas Administrative Code §133.307, §134.1, §134.401
Texas Government Code, Chapter 2001, Subchapter G

PART VII: DIVISION DECISION

Based upon the documentation submitted by the parties and in accordance with the provisions of Texas Labor Code §413.031, the Division has determined that the requestor is not entitled to additional reimbursement for the services involved in this dispute.

DECISION:

_____	_____	8/26/2011
Authorized Signature	Medical Fee Dispute Resolution Officer	Date
_____	_____	8/26/2011
Authorized Signature	Medical Fee Dispute Resolution Manager	Date

PART VIII: YOUR RIGHT TO REQUEST AN APPEAL

Either party to this medical fee dispute has a right to request an appeal. A request for hearing must be in writing and it must be received by the DWC Chief Clerk of Proceedings within **20** (twenty) days of your receipt of this decision. A request for hearing should be sent to: Chief Clerk of Proceedings, Texas Department of Insurance, Division of Workers Compensation, P.O. Box 17787, Austin, Texas, 78744. **Please include a copy of the Medical Fee Dispute Resolution Findings and Decision** together with other required information specified in Division rule at 28 TAC §148.3(c).

Under Texas Labor Code §413.0311, your appeal will be handled by a Division hearing under Title 28 Texas Administrative Code Chapter 142 Rules if the total amount sought does not exceed \$2,000. If the total amount sought exceeds \$2,000, a hearing will be conducted by the State Office of Administrative Hearings under Texas Labor Code §413.031.

Si prefiere hablar con una persona en español acerca de ésta correspondencia, favor de llamar a 512-804-4812.